

Friday, July 31, 2009
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(WASHINGTON) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) is pleased to learn that the Osage Nation has successfully purchased Sugar Loaf Mound of St. Louis, MO as it's an important piece of their history and the region's. The mound itself was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

In summer 2008, Congressman Carnahan was made aware that the Sugar Loaf Mound was put on the real estate market by its long-time owners. According to the Osage Nation, the mound is thought to be the last remaining in St. Louis from the Cahokia civilization period built by ancient Osages and is documented to have been in existence since 800 A.D.

"There is nothing we can do to bring back what was destroyed nor is the Osage Nation attempting to recreate a modern culture or lifestyle based on what has been set aside by our elders; but the Nation can impact what happens to Sugarloaf Mound today and can help educate Osages and the citizens of St. Louis about us and where they live," said Osage Nation Principal Chief Jim Gray.

Congressman Carnahan has a long-time interest in the mound and in its historic significance.

"St. Louis has a rich history, including being known as 'Mound City,' but due to development mounds that at one time existed throughout the area have been destroyed," said Congressman Carnahan.

"I'm pleased the Osage Nation has taken steps to preserve this property for future generations and look forward to the area being used for historic and educational purposes."

As a State Representative, Carnahan had created a working group of supporters with mound preservation as its chief goal. In fall 2008, Congressman Carnahan formed a task force of interested parties and stake holders to actively pursue preservation of Sugar Loaf Mound.

The task force members represent the historic preservation community, the local neighborhood organization, City Aldermen, members of the archaeological community and city officials. This task force also included Dr. Andrea Hunter, Historic Preservation Officer for the Osage Nation.

Chief Gray visited the Sugar Loaf and Cahokia mounds in Illinois on December 29, 2008, which are both part of the same ancient metropolis. The purchase terms and conditions were finalized during this spring and summer.

The Osage Nation will hold a press conference at 2:00 p.m. Central Time on Friday, July 31st, at the Office of the Principal Chief, 627 Grandview, Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

Congressman Carnahan co-chairs the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus building support to preserve America's historic places.

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